

Application No.: 10/650,606

Docket No.: BA1-03-0738 (03-0738)

REMARKS

Claims 1-66 were pending when a non-final Office Action was mailed on November 16, 2004.

Claims 1-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. Claims 1-2, 9-10, 13-14, 35-36, 41-42, 48-49, 52, 56-57, and 60-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 3-8, 11-12, 15-16, 37-40, 43-44, 50-51, 53-55, 58-59, and 62-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 20-34 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. Claims 17-19, 45-47, and 64-66 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner is thanked for indication of allowable subject matter.

Allowable subject matter has been incorporated into Claims 1, 36, and 48, and Claims 13, 17, 41, 45, 60, and 64 have been cancelled. Amendments have been made to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. In view of the amendments set forth herein, Applicant submits that all claims that remain pending in this application are in condition for allowance and the patent application is in condition for issuance. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendment, reconsideration and allowance of all claims that remain pending in this application, and issuance of this application as a patent.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants note and appreciate the thorough examination given the claims of the patent application. Applicant has incorporated all of the suggestions set forth in the Office Action, except as noted below.

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Applicant has drafted all of the claims with recitations of "the" and has not used recitations of "said." In order to maintain consistency within all of the claims, suggested recitations of "said" for claims 36, 38, 39, 42, and 46 have been implemented with recitations of "the".

Applicant has drafted all of the method claims 35-47 without reciting "steps of". In order to maintain consistency within all of the method claims 35-47 (none of which recite "steps of"), Applicant has left out suggested recitations of "step of" in Claims 42 and 46.

Claims 1, 12, 14, 18, 19, 20, 30, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 46, 48, 59, 60, 61, 64, and 65 have been amended as suggested by the Office Action (except as described above) to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, not to narrow the claims or for any reason related to patentability. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections to Claims 1-66 have been overcome by the amendments made to Claims 1, 12, 14, 18, 19, 20, 30, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 46, 48, 59, 60, 61, 64, and 65. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendment, and reconsideration and allowance of all claims that remain pending in this applications.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 9-10, 13-14, 35-36, 41-42, 48-49, 52, 56-57, and 60-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,262,679 to Tran. Allowable subject matter from Claims 17, 45, and 64 has been incorporated into Claims 1, 36, and 48, respectively, and Claims 13, 17, 41, 45, 60, and 64 have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendment, and reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-2, 9-10, 14, 35-36, 42, 48-49, 52, 56-57, and 61.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-8, 11-12, 15-16, 37-40, 43-44, 50-51, 53-55, 58-59, and 62-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,262,679 to Tran. Allowable subject matter from Claims 17, 45, and 64 has been incorporated into Claims 1, 36, and 48, respectively, and Claims 13, 17, 41, 45, 60, and 64 have been cancelled, thereby rendering moot the rejection

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under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendment, and reconsideration and allowance of Claims 3-8, 11-12, 15-16, 37-40, 43-44, 50-51, 53-55, 58-59, and 62-63.

IV. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action stated that Claims 20-34 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. The Examiner is thanked for indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 20, 30, and 33 have been amended as suggested by the Office Action to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendment, and reconsideration and allowance of Claims 20-34.

The Office Action stated that Claims 17-19, 45-47, and 64-66 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner is thanked for indication of allowable subject matter. Allowable subject matter from Claims 17, 45, and 64 has been incorporated into Claims 1, 36, and 48, respectively, and Claims 17, 45, and 64 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendment, and reconsideration and allowance of Claims 18-19, 46-47, and 65-66.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes all of the claims that remain pending in the application are in condition for allowance.

Allowable subject matter has been incorporated into Claims 1, 36, and 48, and Claims 13, 17, 41, 45, 60, and 64 have been cancelled. Amendments have been made to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2.

In view of the amendments set forth herein, Applicant submits that all claims that remain pending in this application are in condition for allowance and the patent application is in condition for issuance. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendment, reconsideration and

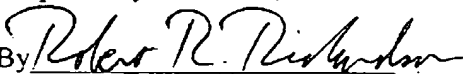
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allowance of all claims that remain pending in this application, and issuance of this application as a patent.

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Respectfully submitted,

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